

AVRIL 1976

May your road be rough !

I am not cursing you ; I am wishing you what I wish myself every year. I therefore repeat, may you have a hard time this year ; may there be plenty of troubles this year ! If you are not sure what you should say back, why not just say 'same to you' ? I ask for no more.

Our successes are conditioned by the ammount of risk we are ready to take. Earlier on today I visited a local farmer about three miles from where I live. He could not have been more than 55, but he said he was already too old to farm vigorously. He still suffered, he said, from the physical energy he displayed as a farmer in his younger days. Around his hut were two pepper bushes. There were cocoyams growing round him. There were snail shells which had given him it. There must have been more snails around the banana trees I saw. He hardly ever went to town to buy things. He was self-sufficient. The car or the bus, the television or the telephone, the newspaper, Vietnam or Red China were nothing to him. He had no ambitions whatsoever, he told me. I am not sure if you are already envious of him, but were we all to revert to such life, we will be practically driven back to cave dwelling. On the over hand, try to put yourself in the position of the Russian or the American astronaut. Any moment now the counts three, two, one, zero, are going to go, and you are going to be shot into the atmosphere and soon you will be whirling round our earth at the speed of six miles per second. If you get fired into the the atmosphere and you forget what to do to ensure return to earth, one of the things that might happen to you is that you could become for ever a satellite, going round the earth until you die of starvation, and even then your dead body would continue the gyration !

When, therefore, you are being dressed up and padded to be shot into the sky, you know only too well that you are going to be on the roughest road man has ever trodden. The Americans and Russians who have gone were armed with the great belief that they would come back. But I cannot believe that they did not have some slight foreboding on the contingency on the non-return. It is their courage for going in spite of these apprehensions that makes the world hail them so loudly today.

When my sisters and I were young and we slept on our small mats round our mother, she always walk us up at 6 for morning prayers. She always said prayers on our behalf but always ended with something like this -'May we not enter into any dangers or get into any difficulties this day.' It took me almost thirty years to dislodge the cankerworm in our mother's sentiments. I found, by hard experience, that all that is noble

and laudable is to be achieved only through difficulties and trials and tears and dangers. There are no other roads.

(From *Thinking with You*, by Tai Solarin)

## SECTION 1 - READING COMPREHENSION

**Choose from alternatives A to D the expressions which suitably have the same meaning as the given sentences.**

**1** - I ask for no more means :

- A you should not curse me more than that
- B you should not curse me as much as that
- C I consider that a good enough wish
- D I have nothing else to ask from you

**2** -The satellite will be whirling round our earth on a range of six miles per second means :

- A the satellite will be waiting round our earth on a range of six miles
- B the satellite will be revolving at the speed of six miles per second
- C the satellite will be moving fast round our earth at the speed of nine kilometers per second
- D the satellite will be circling our earth at the speed of six thousand metres per second

**3**-The author mentioned the farmer's age, to imply :

- A that he was indeed too old to farm vigorously
- B that he was not too old to farm vigorously
- C that he was old enough to farm vigorously
- D that he was not old enough to farm vigorously

**4**-He was self-sufficient means :

- A he was the richest man in the village
- B he was selfish and did not like his friends
- C he had enough food to eat
- D he spent his time celebrating

**5**-Does the writer admire the farmer or not ? Justify your answer (7 lines maximum)

## SECTION 2 - VOCABULARY

**After each of the following sentences a list possible interpretations of all or part of the sentences is given. Choose which interpretation you consider appropriate for each sentence.**

**6-** It is high time they declared which side they were on :

- A they have not yet declared their support for either side, and they should do so now
- B they have at last said which side they support
- C they said they should now decide which side to support
- E they said they had decided long ago whom they supported

**7-** If the plane left here at dawn this morning, it should have arrived at Douala a few minutes ago :

- A the plane has probably just arrived at Douala, assuming that it left at dawn
- B the plane probably left here at dawn, but it has not yet arrived at Douala
- C the plane did not leave here at dawn, so it did not reach Douala a few minutes ago
- D It would have been better for the plane to arrive in Douala a little earlier by leaving at dawn
- E the plane usually left at dawn, and expected to reach Douala in a few minutes

**8-** She opened the letter and her face fell :

- A she looked at it closely
- B she started crying
- C she looked very surprised
- D she gave a sign of agreement
- E she looked suddenly disappointed

**9-** When it came to a discussion of economies he was completely out of his depth

- A he brought every thing into the open
- B he was no longer depressed
- C he did not understand the subject
- D he lost his self-control
- E he felt that nobody supported his opinions

**10-** Whether he likes it is beside the point

- A it is something else to consider
- B it is a closely related matter
- C it is irrelevant
- D it is impossible to judge
- E it is just what we are discussing

### SECTION 3 - GRAMMAR

**Choose from alternatives A to E the expressions that most suitably completes the sentence :**

**11-** I had no idea how long ...

- A have I been asleep ?
- B had I been asleep ?
- C I have been asleep
- D I have been asleep
- E I had been asleep

**12-** No sooner ... the crowd began to gather

- A The policeman had left, than
- B than the policeman had left,
- C had left the policeman, than
- D had the policeman left, than
- E when the policeman had left, than